

Abstract

A device for operating a plurality of discharge lamps (71, 72) is to be fashioned cost effectively. Two lamps (71, 72) are therefore operated in a single load circuit. In the preheating phase, the incandescent filaments (711, 712, 721, 722) are supplied with preheating current either directly or via a transformer (L_s , L_p). The preheating current is controlled via a temperature-dependent resistor (PTC) in such a way that the continuous heating current is greatly reduced over all the filaments during the operation of the lamp.